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## EDUCATION ELEMENT

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### PRIMARY GOAL

Adequate educational facilities and programs serving local community needs should be provided as needed.

### EXISTING CONDITIONS

The schools in Rancho Peñasquitos were operating at five percent over permanent design capacity in 1992 (see **Table 5**). Enrollment estimates for the community developed by the Poway Unified School District project approximately seven percent growth in enrollment between now and the 1996-97 school year (see **Table 6**). The opening of Deer Canyon Elementary in 1990 and Adobe Bluffs Elementary in 1992 has dramatically decreased the need to accommodate student enrollment in portable facilities. The district continues to use portable classrooms for middle (6-8) and high (9-12) school students. Additionally, approximately 969 students are being bused to other middle and high schools within the district but outside the Peñasquitos community. Black Mountain and Mt. Carmel continue to operate over permanent design capacity and the physical and spatial impacts to the campuses include encumbrances to the field and/or asphalt recreational areas. In addition to these impacts, there are adverse impacts on daily operations and educational programs in the schools. The addition of Mesa Verde Middle School, which is currently beginning construction, will reduce these impacts and permit the district to adjust attendance boundaries to permit middle school students residing within the community and currently being bused to either Bernardo Heights and Meadowbrook Middle Schools to attend one of the Peñasquitos middle schools. Construction of the school is scheduled for completion in late April or early May 1994, depending upon weather and other uncontrollable circumstances.

**TABLE 5**  
**RANCHO PEÑASQUITOS SCHOOL CAPACITY AND STUDENT ENROLLMENT**

School	Permanent Capacity*	9/25/92 Enrollment	Difference	Permanent Capacity
Adobe Bluffs Elementary	686	416	-270	-39%
Rolling Hills Elementary	755	571	-184	-24%
Sunset Hills Elementary	784	652	-132	-17%
Canyon View Elementary	702	1,013	311	44%
Los Peñasquitos Elementary	685	741	56	8%
Deer Canyon Elementary	697	861	164	24%
Sundance Elementary	722	630	-92	-13%
Black Mountain Middle	1,335	1,603	268	20%
Mt. Carmel High	2,088	2,348	260	12%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>8,454</b>	<b>8,835</b>	<b>381</b>	<b>15%</b>

\*Permanent capacities in accordance to the state of California LeRoy Greene Lease Purchase Law Loading Standards, as revised July 1988

Source: Poway Unified School District, January 1993

## Student Growth Projections

The following table shows student growth projections in the Poway Unified School District for Rancho Peñasquitos. The grade levels addressed are elementary (K-5), middle school (6-8) and high school (9-12).

The table reflects the October 1992 enrollment and projected growth starting in October 1993 through October 1996. Estimates utilize current grade level cohorts and projected growth from new development based upon the current economic conditions.

**TABLE 6**  
**STUDENT GROWTH PROJECTIONS**  
**POWAY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT - RANCHO PEÑASQUITOS**

Year	Elementary	TOTAL STUDENTS		
		Middle	High	Total
1992	4,897	2,231	2,743	9,871
1993	4,859	2,413	2,858	10,130
1994	4,839	2,498	3,021	10,358
1995	4,873	2,564	3,095	10,532
1996	4,844	2,586	3,234	10,664

These estimates are for students currently residing and projected to be generated from new development within the Peñasquitos community. Development in the City's Future Urbanizing Area will have an impact on school population beginning in approximately 1995. Financing for permanent and portable classrooms to accommodate this growth will be in place before the growth occurs.

## ISSUES

According to the Poway Unified School District, the schools in Rancho Peñasquitos Unified School District are currently operating at five percent over permanent design capacity. The Poway Unified School District has continued to accommodate the growth by housing students in relocatable facilities. The community believes this does not adequately address the overcrowding problem because the main facility was not designed to accommodate such numbers. The portable classroom facilities encroach onto needed playground space.

Another major school issue in the community relates to the location of school sites on major roads heavily impacted by traffic. This situation creates danger for children walking to school.

## **POLICIES**

- Educational opportunities should be tailored to community requirements through community interaction with the Poway Unified School District.
- Integrate public school facilities and residential development planning to assure adequate school housing is available with need.
- Each public elementary school should be developed as a focus of a residential neighborhood, usually near a neighborhood park, accessible from a collector street running through the neighborhood and compatible in design with the character of the neighborhood.
- Elementary schools shall be located such that safe, direct access for a maximum number of students is permitted.
- Secondary schools should be located as part of a community-oriented area close to community recreational facilities and accessible from major community roadways and bikeways.
- The use of school facilities by adults for educational programs, civic and cultural activities and recreational uses should continue.
- The development of community college facilities and programs which are readily accessible to the community and appropriate to community needs should continue.
- When feasible, joint use of school facilities should continue to be provided for community recreational needs.
- Streets with existing or proposed Class II bicycle lanes adjacent to schools without adequate off-street parking should be widened to provide for both on-street parking and Class II bicycle lanes. This widening may require additional right-of-way in order to ensure compliance with the Street Design Manual.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Implement Council Policy 700-35 to guarantee joint use (by the City and the Poway School District) of each school's recreational facilities during non-school hours.

### **Elementary and Secondary Schools**

A total of 12 public school facilities are recommended to serve the planning area. The sites of these schools are shown in **Figure 34** and include nine elementary schools, two middle schools and one high school. All school sites proposed in this Plan, including the sites outside the Plan area, have been identified by the Poway Unified School District.

Generally, the elementary school sites are planned to serve one or two neighborhood units. Although it is the policy of the Poway Unified School District to assign students to schools

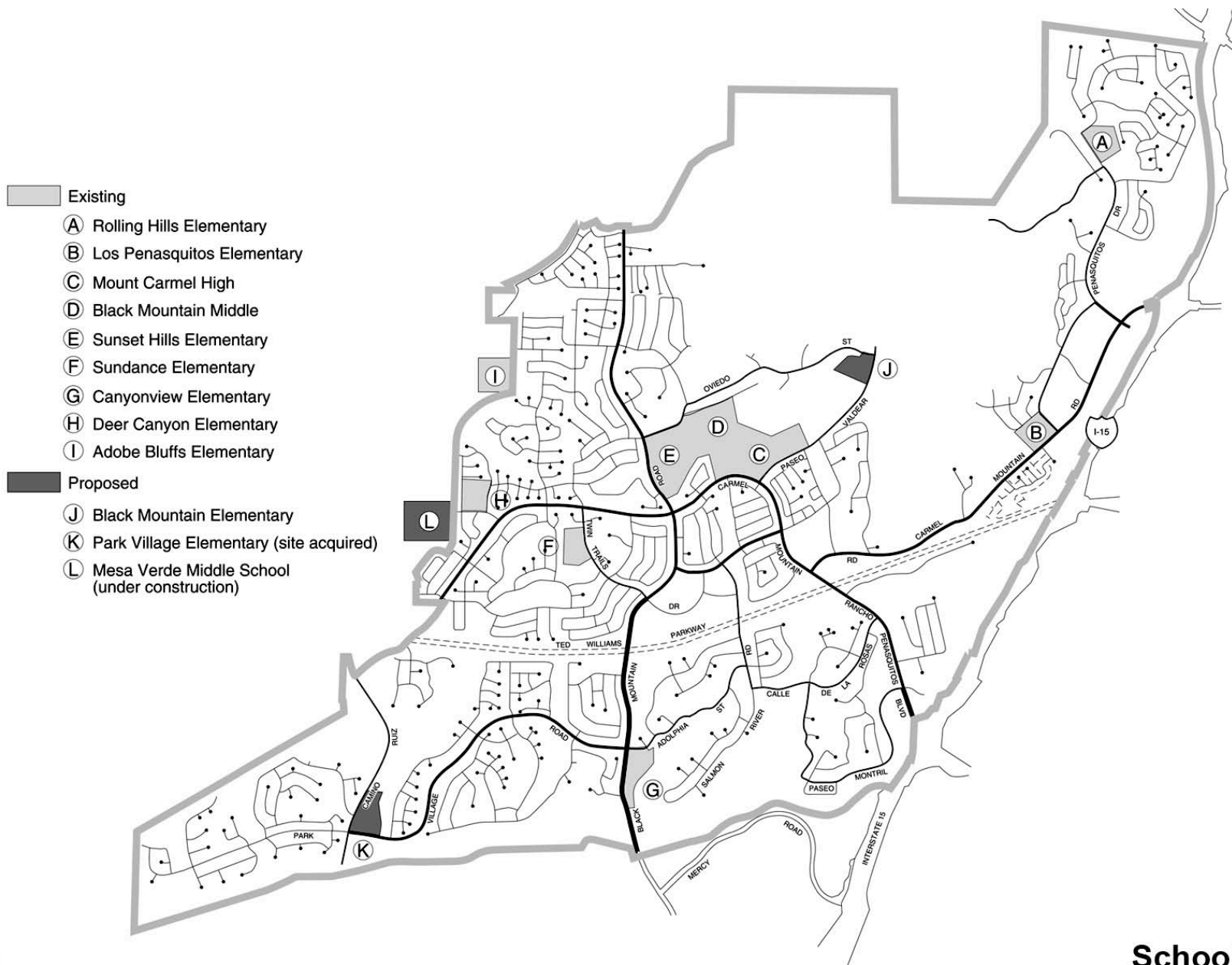
on the basis of availability and not by community or neighborhood name, Rancho Peñasquitos elementary students should be able to attend their own neighborhood schools at the time of full buildout of the community. In the interim, the location and timing of school construction should be phased to the extent possible to match the location and timing of residential development.

There are seven existing elementary schools: Los Peñasquitos Elementary in the Village Neighborhood, Sunset Hills Elementary in the Sunset Hills Neighborhood, Rolling Hills Elementary in the Glens Neighborhood, Sundance Elementary in the Twin Trails Neighborhood, Canyon View Elementary in the Parkview Neighborhood and Deer Canyon Elementary and Adobe Bluffs Elementary in the Bluffs Neighborhood. In addition to these facilities, this Plan recommends elementary school sites in the Black Mountain and Parkview Neighborhoods. One elementary school site located in the Future Urbanizing Area immediately adjacent to the Bluffs Neighborhood has been identified by the Poway Unified School District. The Poway Unified School District is currently seeking an additional high school site within the Poway Unified School District. Many of the elementary school sites are located next to neighborhood parks. Where possible, facilities should be sited such that school playground areas abut active recreation areas in neighborhood parks to facilitate joint use of the facilities. All schools are accessible from a neighborhood or community collector. Safe pedestrian and bicycle access should be taken into account in school and adjacent subdivision design, including consideration of four-way stops, signals, signing, crosswalks, paved walkways and other safety design features.

Two middle school sites and one high school site are shown in **Figure 34**. The existing Black Mountain Middle School is planned to eventually serve the portion of the community south of the existing major power easement. A second middle school site, identified by the Poway Unified School District, is located immediately adjacent to the Bluffs Neighborhood in the Future Urbanizing area. Mount Carmel High School on Carmel Mountain Road is centrally located. Due to the proximity of adjacent future middle schools and high schools to portions of the Peñasquitos community, it is anticipated that some portions of the community will be appropriately served by these adjacent campuses. The 1990 opening of a middle school and a high school in the Rancho Bernardo community has eased the overcrowding at Mount Carmel High School and Black Mountain Middle School.

The existing secondary school sites are located on major streets or collectors, ensuring adequate access. Mount Carmel High School is adjacent to a proposed bikeway. In addition, the existing middle school and the high school are sited next to the Hilltop Community Park to facilitate joint use of recreation facilities.

The design of all school facilities, including additions, should take into account aesthetic impacts on the surrounding neighborhood and community. Buffers may be needed between land uses and appropriate architectural styles should be used. High standards should be maintained in the design, materials and workmanship of school facilities. Landscaping and building material should be durable, easy to maintain and appropriate to the local climate, and vegetation with low water requirements should be used. If possible, building design and selection of equipment should consider life cycle costs rather than short-term capital and installation costs. The principles of crime preventive design should be employed in the planning of schools.



All public school facilities in the Rancho Peñasquitos community should be used to their fullest extent. In addition to regular daytime classes, evening and summer use for adult education, group meetings, cultural events and other community needs should be encouraged.

### **Higher Education**

The Palomar Community College District provides community college facilities and programs for the Rancho Peñasquitos community. The college district currently operates Palomar Community College in San Marcos, a substantial distance from the ranch. The Palomar Community College District uses Mt. Carmel High School four nights a week to provide college classes for Rancho Peñasquitos residents. They provide a comprehensive list of courses and have approximately 1,800 students attending this satellite center weekly. In addition, San Diego Miramar College provides an extensive college level and continuing education curriculum for residents.

The Poway Adult School provides adult education classes at Mt. Carmel High School and Los Peñasquitos Elementary School. Day and evening classes are taught Monday through Thursday during the school year.

### **Private Schools**

Establishment of day care facilities to meet community requirements should be supported. These facilities may be operated as a private business or as a cooperative. These facilities are most appropriately sited in multifamily residential areas, near schools or churches.